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TO : Assistant Director, O/RR

DATE: 30 January 1951

FROM : Chief, Economic Services Division

SUBJECT: Communications Branch, Economic Services Division

1. The Office of Research and Reports, recognizing the need for adequate coverage of foreign communications networks, the uses of individual types of services, their importance to economic and military efforts, and the implications of such uses as they may affect the security of the US, has established a Communications Branch in the Economic Services Division.

2. The responsibility of this branch should encompass radio, telephone, telegraph, radar, television, mail or other communications systems with particular emphasis upon operational factors in the Soviet orbit.

3. It is our understanding that the responsibility for research and reporting on production of communications equipment rests with the Industrial Division and that responsibility for scientific research and inventions in communications equipment rests with OSI.

4. It was deemed proper in the course of organizing a Communications Branch to ascertain what activities might have been conducted by other CIA offices or government agencies.

5. We have learned from OSI in a preliminary search for sources of information that it claims jurisdiction of the entire communications operations field though its functions were confined to research of a scientific nature. The reasons advanced to justify the retaining of the operations functions was that: (1) it has a communications specialist; (2) it is endeavoring to assemble a staff; and (3) the Signal Corps prefers to cooperate with its personnel.

6. We shall, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to us, continue our efforts to properly staff a Communications Branch to report on the operational functions of communications systems. If OSI has one or two competent specialists devoting all their time to operational functions and who prefer to work in that field, they possibly should be transferred to O/RR, D-S, thus meeting the objections advanced against the establishment of the Communications Branch in D-S.

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